

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is responsive to the Notice of Incomplete Reply dated August 20, 2004.

Claims 1-10 are pending. Claims 1 and 2 are independent. Claims 3-10 are amended in order to eliminate the multiple dependency in each of these claims.

In addition, an English translation of the specification and a statement that the translation is accurate is attached hereto. The Applicant certifies that the English translation is a literal and accurate translation, and requests the English translation be used as the copy for examination purposes. (MPEP 608.01)

The Applicant respectfully submits that a full and complete response has now been made to the Notice of Incomplete Reply.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

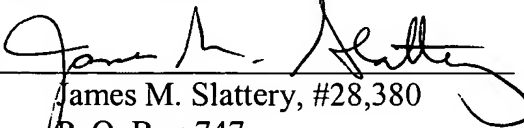
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicant respectfully petitions for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$55 is being filed concurrently herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for

any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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